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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,520	06/27/2003	Matthias Gerlach	103832-506-NP	8727

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EXAMINER

WARD, PAUL V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1623

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/608,520	Applicant(s) GERLACH ET AL.	
	Examiner PAUL V. WARD	Art Unit 1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12, 13 and 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/15/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of Group II, in the reply filed on August 10, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground that the search and examination of the groups would not be a serious burden on the examiner because a proper search of the subject matter of Group I-IV would encompass the search of the of the corresponding subject matter of Groups V-VIII and Groups IX-XII. This argument is not found persuasive to overcome Examiner's Restriction because Groups I-XII are separate and patentably distinct since there is no patentable co-action among them. For example, when n is 0 or when n is 2, a reference anticipating one will not render the other obvious. Hence, Applicant's inventions are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art due their recognized divergent subject matter and different classification. A search of the three groups would impose an undue burden upon the Examiner. Thus, the restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made **FINAL**.

Applicant is entitled to have the method claims or the process of making claims (Group V-VIII and IX-XII), which are commensurate in scope with the elected invention, rejoined, if the compounds in Group II are allowed. An amendment, which results in the method claims and process of making claims being commensurate in scope with the allowed claims, will be welcomed.

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Groups I, and III-XII are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Applicant reserved the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected subject matter.

An action on the merits of Group II (claims 1-11 and 14-17) is contained herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

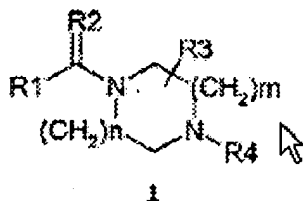
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Corbera et al. (WO 99/05121).

Applicant discloses aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazine compounds with a general formula:



wherein all the variables are as defined in the claim.

Corbera teaches aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazines, which share the same formulaic compounds. (See formula 1, page 2). The compounds in the said reference has the same structure, which includes n as 1, R₂ as O, R₃ as H, alkyl or halogen, R₄ aryl or heteroaryl, and falls within the range of Applicant's compounds. (See pages 3-11 and examples). Since Corbera teaches the exact compounds, Applicant's claims are anticipated, and thus, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

2. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Atwal et al. (WO 01/40231).

Atwal teaches aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazines, which share the same formulaic compounds. (See formula 1, page 8). The compounds in the said reference has the same structure, which includes n as 1, R₂ as O, R₃ as H, alkyl or halogen, R₄ aryl or heteroaryl, and falls within the range of Applicant's compounds. (See pages 47-48, 147 and examples 19, 29-82, 397-509). Since Atwal teaches the exact compounds, Applicant's claims are anticipated, and thus, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

3. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Staveski et al. (WO 01/56974).

Staveski teaches aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazines, which share the same formulaic compounds. (See formula 1, page 8). The compounds in the said reference has the same structure, which includes n as 1, R₂ as O, R₃ as H, alkyl or halogen, R₄ aryl or heteroaryl, and falls within the range of Applicant's compounds. (See pages 8-10, 147 and examples 44-52). Since Staveski teaches the exact compounds, Applicant's claims are anticipated, and thus, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

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4. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wong et al. (U.S. Patent 5,416,087).

Wong teaches aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazines, which share the same formulaic compounds. (See formula 1, Abstract). The compounds in the said reference has the same structure, which includes n as 1, R₂ as O, R₃ as H, alkyl or halogen, R₄ aryl or heteroaryl, and falls within the range of Applicant's compounds. (See col. 3, line 10 to col. 22). Since Wong teaches the exact compounds, Applicant's claims are anticipated, and thus, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corbera et al. (WO 99/05121).

Corbera teaches a generic group of aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazine derivatives, which embraces Applicants' claimed compounds. (See formula 1, col. 1 and definitions for X, R¹, R²). The claims differ from the reference by reciting specific species and a more limited genus than the reference. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including those instantly claimed, because the skilled chemist would have the reasonable expectation that any of the

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species of the genus would have similar properties, and thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole. A prior art disclosed genus of useful compounds is sufficient to render prima facie obvious a species falling within a genus. Thus, Applicant's claims are obvious, and therefore, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

6. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atwal et al. (WO 01/40231).

Atwal teaches a generic group of aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazine derivatives, which embraces Applicants' claimed compounds. (See formula 1, col. 1 and definitions for R^1 , R^2). The claims differ from the reference by reciting specific species and a more limited genus than the reference. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including those instantly claimed, because the skilled chemist would have the reasonable expectation that any of the species of the genus would have similar properties, and thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole. A prior art disclosed genus of useful compounds is sufficient to render prima facie obvious a species falling within a

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genus. Thus, Applicant's claims are obvious, and therefore, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

7. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Staveski et al. (WO 01/56974).

Staveski teaches a generic group of aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazine derivatives, which embraces Applicants' claimed compounds. (See formula 1, col. 1 and definitions for R^1 , R^2). The claims differ from the reference by reciting specific species and a more limited genus than the reference. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including those instantly claimed, because the skilled chemist would have the reasonable expectation that any of the species of the genus would have similar properties, and thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole. A prior art disclosed genus of useful compounds is sufficient to render prima facie obvious a species falling within a genus. Thus, Applicant's claims are obvious, and therefore, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

8. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong et al. (U.S. Patent 5,416,087).

Wong teaches a generic group of aryl and hetero arylcarbonyl piperazine derivatives, which embraces Applicants' claimed compounds. (See formula 1, col. 1

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and definitions for T, Z, R¹-R⁸). The claims differ from the reference by reciting specific species and a more limited genus than the reference. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to select any of the species of the genus taught by the reference, including those instantly claimed, because the skilled chemist would have the reasonable expectation that any of the species of the genus would have similar properties, and thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole. A prior art disclosed genus of useful compounds is sufficient to render prima facie obvious a species falling within a genus. Thus, Applicant's claims are obvious, and therefore, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Conclusion


Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are pending. Claims 1-11 and 14-17 are rejected. No claims are allowed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PAUL V WARD whose telephone number is 571-272-2909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8 am to 4 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O Wilson can be reached on 571-272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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